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PRESS KIT

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1937, and named for a cactus rarely found in the United States. This monument celebrates the life and landscape of the Sonoran Desert in an almost pristine setting. It is a true wilderness where plants and animals live amid dramatic scenery. Sharp volcanic mountains and rocky canyons slope down to forbiddingly hot lowland plains. In this setting you may drive a lonely road, hike a backcountry trail, camp under a clear sky, enjoy the fathomless the night sky, or just soak up the warmth and beauty of the Southwest.

Organ Pipe Cactus has dramatic scenery. In the Ajo Mountains along the eastern boundary is Mount Ajo, at 4808 ft the highest elevation in the monument. Land gradually slopes to the southwest and ends in a series of low plains at less than 1000 feet elevation. In between is classic basin-and-range topography. Mountains reveal their volcanic history in colorful bands or chunks of lavas. As these mountains erode, they form coalescing alluvial fans, or bajadas. Soil and moisture conditions on these bajadas create the ideal habitat for warmth-loving Sonoran Desert plant and animal species. On these slopes you will find the greatest biodiversity within the monument including stands of organ pipe, saguaro, and other cactus species. Here is also the greatest concentration of wildlife from mountain lion to javelina, coyote to grasshopper mouse to desert tortoise. Valley floors are covered with widely spaced creosote bushes and salt-tolerant plants. Frost-free areas are home to senita cactus, the third of only three native columnar cactus species found north of Mexico.

Table of Contents

- Quick Facts
- Monument purpose and significance
- Park Statistics
- Quotes
- Images for Publication

Some Quick Facts....

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument:

- is the largest national monument this side of Alaska
- has more wilderness by percentage of total acreage than any other National Park Service unit south of Alaska (95%)
- contains two of the six subdivisions of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem (Lower Colorado Desert and Arizona Upland)
- is home to 3 endangered species and _____ threatened species
- is a Globally Important Bird Area as designated by the American Bird Conservancy in 2001
- preserves remnants of ice age vegetation
- is the northernmost limit of several subtropical plants and animals
- has a total of:
 - 642 plant species (including 28 species of cacti)
 - 49 amphibian and reptile species (5 toads, 2 turtles, 16 lizards, and 26 snakes)
 - 285 bird species (highest bird diversity in the Sonoran Desert national parks)
 - 1 fish
 - 54 mammal species (14 bats, 20 small terrestrial mammals mostly rodents, and 20 medium to large mammals)
 - Endangered species:
 - Sonoran Pronghorn, (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*)
 - Lesser Long-nosed Bat, (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena*)
 - Quitobaquito Pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius eremus*)

The following sections, Management purpose, significance, resources, values, importance and current conditions/trends is excerpted from ORPI's *Foundation for Planning and Management*.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is to:

- Perpetuate for future generations a representative sample of the natural and cultural resources of the Sonoran Desert and provide for public understanding, safe use, and enjoyment of the same.
 - Serve as a natural laboratory for understanding and managing the Sonoran Desert ecosystem.
 - Serve as a baseline indicator against which environmental changes can be identified.
 - Preserve for future use and enjoyment the character and values of this designated wilderness.
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Monument Significance

Significance #1

Organ Pipe Cactus is one of the most biologically diverse protected areas in the Sonoran Desert in the United States, providing habitat for a highly diverse flora and fauna, including threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species.

Fundamental Resource/Value

-
- Sonoran Desert Subdivisions
 - Arizona Upland
 - Lower Colorado Valley
 - Central Gulf Coast
- Xeroriparian and Riparian Communities
 - Washes
 - Floodplains

- Tinajas and springs
 - Quitobaquito
 - Wetlands
 - Aquatic Communities
 - Water sources (washes, Tinajas, springs)
 - Temperate Communities
 - Migration Routes
 - Habitat Integrity/Connectivity
 - Geography/Geographic location (30 mi n-s makes a difference)
 - Migration of species
 - Variety of soil types
 - Endangered species (pronghorn, pupfish, lesser Long Nosed bat)
 - Rare, endemic, and otherwise special status species
 - Unique species assemblages
 - Columnar cactus
 - Species with limited distribution, and species at the edge of their distributional ranges occur here
- Wilderness designation

Importance

- Contains ~90% of the Organ pipe cactus in the U.S., ~60% of the range in the U.S. Less than 5% of the world range. Very little of organ pipe habitat elsewhere is in protected areas (other tropical species that have reached their northern range).
- The only naturally occurring Quitobaquito pupfish population in the U.S.; more than half of the global population.
- The largest known maternity colony of lesser long-nosed bat in the U.S.
- The monument provides a large portion of Sonoran pronghorn habitat, especially in summer months. ORPI pronghorn habitat is contiguous with other federal lands
- The monument provides a large portion of global Sonoran mud turtle habitat, and provides the most stable habitat.
- Species at the limits of their distributional ranges are important because evolution may be taking place in those settings. These species also occur in assemblages with other species that are unusual for the species at the edge. Unique ecological relationships may occur
- The monument provides habitat for a number of endemic species, and others that have very limited distributions in the U.S. and/or the world. Endemics include: Quitobaquito spring snail, Organ pipe shovel-nosed snake, and Quitobaquito pupfish. Species of limited distribution include: Sonoyta mud turtle, Ajo Mountain whipsnake, desert caper, and Howarth's giant white butterfly
- The monument is a transition between three subdivisions of Sonoran desert which contributes to a high biological diversity; many species are at their range limits within the monument

- The Quitobaquito aquatic and Ajo Mountains temperate communities, by virtue of their isolation, provide habitat for endemic species.
- Relatively frost free communities provide habitat for frost sensitive tropical species occurring at their northern range limit. Some may be the only populations in the U.S
- Large area, relatively intact, and adjacent to other large protected areas provides important habitat for conservation of many species of special concern, and opportunities for cooperation and research
- Major seasonal habitat for breeding and non-breeding migratory species of birds, bats
- Precipitation gradient (importance), range of climate, precipitation from east to west, elevation
- Variety of topography, Ajo Mountains, bajadas
- Variety of topography, Ajo Mountains, bajadas ORPI is likely a very effective ecological preserve due to its size; ecological preserve effectiveness is a function of the size of the protected area
- Geography

Current Condition and Related Trends

- Climate change and drought
- Land is recovering from livestock grazing
- Don't know trends of flagship species such as Organ Pipe and Saguaro
- Wilderness values impacted by border-related activities
- Long-term continuity of large block of federal lands (Organ Pipe Cactus, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR), Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR), and Bureau of Land Management, (BLM)) should be fairly secure
- Pronghorn habitat is being degraded by off-road vehicle traffic, other border-related activities, nonnative plant species, and drought.
- Quitobaquito pupfish numbers are relatively stable. Habitat is vulnerable to drought, groundwater withdrawal, and other border impacts.
- Lesser long-nosed bat numbers are increasing; species may be impacted by climate change. Roost site is vulnerable to human disturbance (possible border impact).
- Sonoran mud turtle numbers are low, have declined. Habitat is vulnerable to drought, border impacts, other human activities (contaminants, poaching).
- Species at the edges of their distributional range may be affected by climate change.
- Endemic species are vulnerable to impacts due to the small, isolated nature of their habitats (e.g. Aguajita Springs, Quitobaquito). Other human impacts may also affect them (e.g. shovel-nosed snake vulnerable to road kill and poaching).
- Migratory bird and bat habitat is generally stable but could deteriorate with increased border-related impacts, nonnative plant invasions, drought, fire, climate change, and other factors.

Acuña cactus populations are declining; could be related to predation or drought, susceptible due to its isolated nature of only one population in the monument

Significance #2

Visitors to Organ Pipe Cactus national Monument experience a protected natural area with wilderness character that provides opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, expansive vistas, enjoying the night sky, and spiritual replenishment in a Sonoran Desert setting.

Fundamental Resource/Value

- Ninety-five percent of the monument is designated wilderness.
- The monument offers a range of both wilderness and non-wilderness recreational opportunities, including photography, bird watching, wildlife viewing, stargazing, hiking, biking and scenic drives.

Undeveloped lands around area contribute to the expansive vistas and feeling of remoteness

- Sonoran Desert cacti
- Quitobaquito spring and pond
- Spring wildflowers
- Cactus bloom
- Winter bird migration
- Remoteness and dark night sky

Viewsheds

- Historic ranches and mines
- Night skies
- Clean air
- Natural quiet soundscape

Interpretation and public education

Importance

- Solitude
- Primitive recreation, no facilities
- Backcountry and wilderness are easily accessible
- Different ways to access, availability to explore and get out into the Sonoran Desert
- Lack of evidence of current human presence; escape from overdevelopment
- Visual qualities –expansive scenery, extending southward
- Remoteness
- Variety of visitor services
- Visitor center for public education
-

Current Condition and Related Trends

- Wilderness experience impacted by illegal activities and administrative actions
- Undeveloped nature of surrounding lands somewhat secure in long-term (CPNWR, BMGR), although some development may be potential on BLM lands, in Why area, Tohono O'odham Nations
- Development in Mexico adjacent to ORPI could be extensive
- Night sky darkness being eroded by increasing light sources of Sonoyta, Yuma, Phoenix, Tucson, and proposed border security activities
- Expansive viewsheds still fairly intact
- Solitude still possible but may be affected by border related activities
- Primitive recreation still possible
- Air quality generally pristine, but occasionally degraded by regional pollutants, trash fires, dust from agricultural fields, etc.
- Some soundscape compromised by highway sound, military and law enforcement overflights and administrative actions.

Significance #3

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is a globally significant Sonoran Desert ecosystem that has been researched since the early 1940s. It serves an international role in research, conservation, and education.

Fundamental Resource/Value

- Cultural, historical, geological and biological connectivity
- Source for baseline data on Sonoran Desert ecosystem
- Exceptional opportunities for inter-institutional cooperation
- Educational and research opportunities
- International location with special resource and management challenges
- Accessibility
- Multinational conservation

Importance

- Organ Pipe has historically had a relatively undisturbed ecosystem for long term research.
- It is an International Biosphere Reserve, offering opportunities for research partnerships, international networking, and community-based conservation.
- Context – driven location on international border, providing special challenges in adaptive management

Current Conditions and Related Trends

- Condition is unsettled due to border related activity and threats to wildlife, natural communities, and the ecosystem as a whole.
 - Climate change and drought are causing shifting assemblages, timing changes in bird migration. Cactus bloom is affected, and spring flow at Quitobaquito is reduced.
 - Economic and political decisions regarding border issues and management profoundly affect the OPRI ecosystem and visitor experience.
 - Cross-border resource monitoring and management continues with Mexico sister park.
- General population growth, regional urbanization, and associated environmental impacts represent a threat

Significance #4

The Sonoran Desert basin and range landscape includes such elements as dramatic mountains and valleys, eroding bajadas or slopes and alluvial fans, and magnificent specimens of columnar cacti.

Fundamental Resource/Values

- Geologic resources, features, systems, and history
- Hydrologic processes
- “Old growth” cacti
- Representative Basin and range province
- Dramatic shifts in elevation
- Air quality
- Soundscape
- Geologic, geographic

Soil, vegetation, and hydrologic patterns

Importance

- Ecological function
- Geological landforms determine the expression of Sonoran Desert ecosystems and the range of ecosystems that develop here.

Sonoran Desert/Basin and Range landscape has important aesthetic values

Current Conditions and Trends

- The monument is geologically stable in terms of being seismically inactive.
- Erosion continues and is largely a natural process. Major episodic events (rock falls, floods) may occur.
- Drought and possibly climate change is affecting many ecological processes; disturbance regimes such as fire and flooding may be changing,
- Water table is declining.

General increase in human caused sounds

Significance #5

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is the site of cultural resources that reflect long widespread and diverse presence including Native American, Mexican and Anglo groups.

Fundamental Resource/Values

- Cultural resources, historic and prehistoric
- Archeology
- Human history of area (long term migration)
- Intersection of cultures
- Ethnobotany
- Quitobaquito Spring and Pond

Living landscape for Tohono O'odham as well as ongoing connections (e.g. Quitobaquito, sacred sites, saguaro harvest)

Importance

- Some of the major historic elements in the monument include Bates Well, Victoria Mine, Dos Lomitas, Quitobaquito.
- Preservation of ranching, farming activities, mining history and Native American history
- Historical and present day interaction on cross roads of various cultural groups (T.O., Hispanic, American, Asian)
- Unique elements of past and present cultures
- Corridor for travel and its related artifacts (old and new migration routes)

Current Condition and Trends

- Only 5% of the cultural resources have been surveyed; many sites have not yet been located and surveyed
- Desert components of the monument have been and continue to be impacted by increased illegal and law enforcement activity
- The fabric of some historical structures is being dismantled and taken into Mexico to be used for firewood or fence material
- In some cases, the cultural history is being destroyed and/or lost permanently from the removal of historic and prehistoric artifacts, illegal trails, and off-road vehicle traffic.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Monument Designations

International

On October 26, 1976, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was designated an **International Biosphere Reserve**. International Biosphere Reserves are a project of the Man and the Biosphere program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Reserves are protected samples of the world's major ecosystem types. These sites are standards against which we can measure human impact on our environment and predict its probable effects. There are now over 190 reserves in 50 countries.

In 2001 Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (specifically Quitobaquito Springs) and nearby Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge were declared **Globally Important Bird Areas** (IBA) by the American Bird Conservancy. IBAs are of critical importance to migratory birds, as they provide food, water and shelter for migratory stopovers, and further provide nesting spots for seasonal residents such as the vermilion flycatcher and endangered Bell's Least Vireo.

National

Also on October 26, 1976, Congress designated 95% of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument lands as wilderness. These are semi-pristine lands: no roads, no permanent structures, areas where Man is a visitor who does not remain....

In 1978 Quitobaquito Springs was placed on National Register of Historic Places.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Monument Statistics

Total Area

330,689 acres, or 516 square miles, with 95% designated wilderness (314,115 acres), 43.5 acres of private land, and 1280 acres of State land.

Significant Dates

- 1937 April 13. Monument authorized by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- 1976 October. Designated Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO
- 1978 November 10. Congress declares 95% monument land as designated wilderness.
- 1978 Quitobaquito Springs placed on National Register of Historic Places
- 2001 Organ Pipe Cactus national Monument and adjoining Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge were declared Important Bird Areas

Annual Visitation 323,500 in 2007

Annual visitation ranges 250,000 to 300,000 persons, most of whom visit from November through April. They contribute significantly to the **local economy** through tourism revenue. A **significant percentage** of visitors are international travelers.

For details on annual visitation, please consult the NPS Public Use Statistics at www.nature.nps.gov/stats

Elevation: Highest, Mt. Ajo 4808 ft, 1466 meters; **average \pm 1200 ft. Lowest ___? ___**

Temperature and Rainfall, average 7.2 inches. See chart below

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average Max °F	72	72	77	85	95	102	103	102	99	87	75	68
Average Min °F	42	42	46	52	60	70	75	74	68	57	46	39
Average Days 100 °F and Over	0	0	0	0	8	20	25	22	16	1	0	0
Average Rainfall/ Inches	0.92	0.64	0.89	0.47	0.01	0.38	0.98	1.41	0.65	0.58	0.27	0.52
Average Max °F	72	72	77	85	95	102	103	102	99	87	75	68

WILDLIFE LISTINGS

MAMMALS

Shrews (1 specie)

Desert Shrew

Bats (13 species)

Big Brown Bat
California Myotis Bat
Cave Myotis Bat
Greater (Western) Mastiff Bat
Hoary Bat
California Leafnose Bat
*Lesser Long Nosed Bat
Mexican Freetail Bat
Pallid Bat

Pocketed Freetailed Bat
Underwood's Mastiff Bat
Western Big-eared Bat
Western Pipistrelle Bat

Hares and Rabbits (3 species)

Antelope Jackrabbit
Blacktail Jackrabbit
Desert Cottontail

Gnawing Mammals (19 species)

Arizona Cotton Rat
Arizona Pocket Mouse
Arizona Woodrat (aka packrat)
Bailey Pocket Mouse
Bannertail Kangaroo Rat
Botta's Pocket Gopher

Cactus Mouse
Desert Kangaroo Rat
Desert Pocket Mouse
Harris' Antelope Squirrel
Little Pocket Mouse
Merriam's Kangaroo Rat
Merriam's Mouse
Rock Pocket Mouse
Rock Squirrel
Roundtail Ground Squirrel
Southern Grasshopper Mouse
Western Harvest Mouse
White-throated Woodrat

Flesh Eaters (13 species)

Badger
Bobcat
Coati
Coyote
Gray Fox
Hognosed Skunk
Hooded Skunk
Kit Fox
Mountain Lion
Raccoon
Ringtail
Spotted Skunk
Striped Skunk

Even-toed Mammals (5 species)

Desert Bighorn
Javelina (collared peccary)
Mule Deer
*Pronghorn
White-tailed Deer

AMPHIBIANS

Toads (4 species)

Desert Spadefoot Toad
Great Plains Toad
Red spotted Toad
Sonoran Desert Toad

REPTILES

Turtles (2 species)

Desert Tortoise
*Sonora Mud Turtle

Lizards (15 species)

Canyon Spotted Whiptail
Clark Spiny Lizard
Common Chuckwalla
Common Collared Lizard
Desert Horned Lizard
Desert Iguana
Desert Spiny Lizard
Leopard Lizard
Longtailed Brush Lizard

Lizards (continued)

Regal Horned Lizard
Sideblotched Lizard
Tree Lizard
Western Banded Gecko
Western Whiptail
Zebratailed Lizard

Venomous Lizards (1 specie)

Gila Monster

Snakes (25 species)

Banded Sand Snake
Blacknecked Garter Snake
Bull Snake (Gopher Snake)
Coachwhip
Common Kingsnake
Glossy Snake
Longnosed Snake
Lyre Snake
Night Snake
Rosy Boa
Saddled Leaf-nosed Snake
Sonoran Shovel-nosed Snake
Sonoran Whipsnake
Southwestern Blackheaded Snake
Spotted Leaf-nosed Snake
Western Blind Snake
Western Patch-nosed Snake
Western Shovel-nosed Snake

Venomous Snakes

Blacktailed Rattlesnake
 Mojave Rattlesnake
 Sidewinder
 Speckled Rattlesnake
 Tiger Rattlesnake
 Western Coralsnake

Venomous Snakes (continued)
 Western Diamondback
 Rattlesnake

48 COMMON BIRDS

Turkey Vulture
 Cooper's Hawk
 Harris' Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Golden Eagle

American Kestrel
 Prairie Falcon
 White-winged Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Gambel's Quail

Greater Roadrunner
 Great Horned Owl
 Cactus Ferruginous
 Pygmy Owl
 Elf Owl
 White-throated Swift

Anna's Hummingbird
 Costa's Hummingbird
 Rufous Hummingbird

Gila Woodpecker
 Gilded Flicker

Say's Phoebe
 Ash-throated
 Flycatcher
 Common Raven
 Verdin
 Cactus Wren

Rock Wren
 Canyon Wren
 Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
 Curve-billed Thrasher
 Phainopepla

Warbling Vireo
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Black-headed Grosbeak

Varied Bunting
 Lazuli Bunting
 Northern Cardinal
 Canyon Towhee
 Black-throated Sparrow

Rufous Crowned
 Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco species
 Hooded Oriole
 Scott's Oriole

House Finch
 Lesser Goldfinch
 Lawrence's Goldfinch

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Quotes

The organ pipe cactus is a conspicuous plant, though perhaps not as impressive as the saguaro. At most the organ pipe grows to 10 to 15 feet, only about half the saguaro's height. Instead of the single main column the organ pipe, as the name implies, produces a cluster of branches from a single base. Though common in northwest Mexico, this cactus grows nowhere in the United States except in this part of Arizona, which is the primary reason the area was set aside by Presidential proclamation in 1937 as a national monument.

Ed Abbey, *Cactus Country*, p 25

I would not forget the rocky hills studded with giant cactus, the secret canyons winding into unknown places, the purple, shadowed mountains on the horizon, the rich complex of animal

life, bird life, plant life, all that strange, sometimes bitter magic of the natural world. I knew that I would be back, many times.

Ed Abbey, *Cactus Country*, p27

...Bull Pasture is one of the few places in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument where the visitor can see a bit of nature in its pure state. Here the grass grows knee high, the agave, the yucca, and the ocotillo flourish, and the flowers, during the spring and autumn months, if the rains and temperatures have been propitious, brighten the fields with acres of color.

Ed Abbey, *Cactus Country*, p77

Desert mountains do not bother with foothills; they rise from level plain to steep slope with little transition. Most desert mountains are granite, basalt, gneiss, rhyolite, or schist. Born of fire, and heat, and pressure, they are young, rugged, and jagged with knife-edge crests.

Bill Broyles, *Our Sonoran Desert*. p48

Cacti are basically water bags. But don't count on getting a drink from any of them, not even from the fabled barrel cactus said to have furnished water to parched travelers lost in the desert. The slimy fluid inside a cactus is gritty, bitter, and laced with alkaloids and other chemicals meant to discourage man and beast from trying to imbibe.

Bill Broyles, *Our Sonoran Desert*, p7

With habitat changing on a global scale, it is increasingly important to have yardsticks like Organ Pipe to measure changes. There are fewer undisturbed places to access the extent and effects of pollution, desertification, ground water depletion, global warming and invasive plants.

Bill Broyles, *Organ Pipe Cactus national Monument*, p. 23

If you enter the deserts to study them, go in a receptive and tolerant frame of mind, or not at all.... After a month spent in the deserts, you will either love them or loathe them for the rest of your life. Go with an open mind; for the voices of the arid wastes are entitled to a hearing. If you cannot endure a certain amount of thirst, heat, fatigue and hunger without getting cross with Nature, it is best to stay at home...."

Wm. T. Hornaday, *Campfires on Desert and Lava*, p. 35

Please find 2-3 quotes from other sources

Comments from the Visitor Register:

- a place beautiful in its simplicity
Colorado

- Wonderful! The wildflowers and the wildlife are great!

Arizona

...expansive and renewing
Colorado

Stunning vistas - unexpected delights
Texas

Cinematic landscape
Austria

Amazing nature in this harsh environment
Ohio

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Monument Resources

Natural Resources:

Plants

28 species of cacti, 550 species of vascular plants

Wildlife

Amphibians 4

Birds 279

Mammals 53

Reptiles and Amphibians 43

Fish 1

Do we want a list of common plants /animals/birds? ABSOLUTELY – We need it electronically to make it work.

Threatened and Endangered Animals (Tim, please complete my list)

Endangered Species

Sonoran Pronghorn

Lesser Long Nosed Bat

Quitobaquito pupfish

Threatened, or species of special concern

Desert Tortoise

Gila Monster

Sonoyta mud turtle

Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

Threatened and Endangered Plants (Sue, please complete my list)

Screwbean mesquite (?)

Cultural Sites

Native American:

Numerous pre historic (Hohokam) sites, historic Hia Ced and Tohono O'odham sites.

Quitobaquito Springs

Ranching Sites:

Alamo Canyon: ranch house, corral, well and associated structures

Bates Well Ranch: 5 wells, numerous buildings, corrals, etc

Dos Lomitas (Blankenship): ranch house, corrals, wells, misc. buildings

Quitobaquito Springs

Mining sites

Victoria Mine (silver, lead, copper, gold),
Milton Mine (copper)
Quitobaquito Springs (milling site only)
Baker Mine (copper)

Quitobaquito

Quitobaquito (*Key-tow-ba-key-tow*) is a natural spring-fed oasis surrounded by miles of dry Sonoran Desert. The origin of its name and much of its history has been long lost to present cultures. It is now considered an archaeological site and cultural landscape site. It was used for centuries as a Native American spiritual site, permanent dwelling site, and, since the early 1700s a farming location. Europeans also used it for farming site, a milling site for ores from local mines. It was a well-known stopover on the infamous Camino del Diablo (Devil's Highway) established in the late 1600s. It is a unique blend of ancient and modern. Century old pomegranate trees live next to native mesquites. A subspecies of desert pupfish unique to Quitobaquito and the Sonoyta river live in the pond.

Development and Facilities:

31.5 miles public roads (2.5 miles paved; all others gravel)
17 miles of trails
0.1 mile accessible nature trail
2 campgrounds, total 212 sites
17 buildings including 1 visitor center, 2 resource buildings, 1 administration building, 1 maintenance facility and 11 residences.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Current Issues (Lee, help on border-related items!)

- Sonoran Pronghorn recovery
- buffelgrass invasion
- trash dumping along AZ Hwy #85
- lack of data on pre-historic and historic sites
- lack of government funding, forcing deferred maintenance of monument infrastructure.
- lack of sufficient funding to hire full complement of permanent employees.
- International border-related issues:
 - conflicts between public enjoyment versus public safety issues
 - illegal entrants, smugglers (trash, vandalism, degradation of resources, associated law enforcement issues, etc)
 - NPS has little or no control regarding over-riding jurisdictions and associated border-related issues (DHS)

For information on the pedestrian fence, please contact_____.

For Border Patrol related issues, please contact _____.